PREDICTION OF KINETICS FOR C4 SPECIES WHICH FORM BENZENE

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INTRODUCTION

C4 species have long been proposed to be critical intermediates in forming aromatics from lighter aliphatics. Recent work (1) supports the hypotheses that 1-buten-3-ynyl (1-C4H3) and 1,3-butadienyl (1-C4H5) are the specific species involved in low-pressure flames of acetylene (C2H2) and 1,3-butadiene (1,3-C4H6).

1-C4H3 and 1-C4H5 have been suggested before as the key reactants (2-6), but the recent work shows that the earlier, thermal mechanisms are not justified; rather, only chemically activated pathways are feasible. Earlier studies generally assumed addition to C2H2, followed by thermal cyclization of the linear adduct to phenyl and cyclohexadienyl, respectively, and by thermal decomposition of the cyclohexadienyl to benzene and H. All reactions were implicitly assumed to be in the high-pressure limit. However, appropriate analysis of falloff indicates that this thermal sequence is too slow, even at 1 atm, while chemically activated intermediates from the same addition reactions lead directly to aromatics with fast enough rate constants.

Identifying the sources of 1-C4H3 and 1-C4H5 is plainly of interest. Literature analyses (2-6) assumed these sources were addition of C2H and C2H3 to C2H2, again (implicitly) in the high-pressure limit. Also, the quantitative test in (1) was comparison of the measured, net rate of benzene formation to a rate calculated from predicted rate constants and the measured C2H2, C4H3, and C4H5 concentrations. An improved test would use concentrations of the specific isomers 1-C4H3 and 1-C4H5, which could not be resolved from other C4H3 and C4H5 isomers experimentally.

Rates are predicted and compared here for the reactions that form and destroy 1-C4H3, 1-C4H5, and other C4H3 and C4H5 isomers. Rate constants are estimated by analogy and thermochemical kinetics (7) for H-abstraction from 3-butenyne (C4H4 or vinylacetylene) and from 1,3-C4H6. Using Bimolecular Quantum-RRK (8-9), rate constants, branching and pressure dependence are predicted for the association reactions of radical addition (C2H+C2H2 and C2H3+C2H2), H-addition (to C4H2 and C4H4), and H/radical and radical/radical recombination (H+C4 radicals, C2H+C2H3 and C2H3+C2H3).

EXPERIMENTAL AND THEORETICAL PROCEDURES

Experimental data. - Profiles of mole fractions were mapped for 38 stable species and free radicals in a lightly sooting flat flame of C2H2/O2/5% Ar (10) using molecular-beam mass spectrometry. The fuel-equivalence ratio was 2.40, burner velocity (298 K) was 0.50 m/s, and pressure was 2.67 kPa (20 torr). Temperatures were measured using a 0.076-mm diameter Pt/Pt-13%Rh thermocouple, coated with a thin BeO/Y2O3 glass to eliminate catalytic heating and resistively heated to the flame temperature so as to eliminate convective heat transfer. Mole fractions were shifted 0.11 mm toward the burner (two orifice diameters), compensating for the shift caused by the probe.

Direct and indirect calibrations were used, and the smoothed data curves were used in the present calculations. Major stable species were calibrated directly within 3% except for H₂O (25%). Minor species were calibrated within a factor of two by the method of relative ionization cross-sections (11). Because of the correction for ¹³C isotope effects and the low signals, the shapes of the radical profiles are less well defined than those of the minor stable species.

Complete profiles for all species of interest except C₂H and O were measured. For C₂H and O-atom in the present calculations, mole fractions were predicted (10) using a modified Warnatz (12-13) reaction mechanism.

Predicted rate constants. - Two types of reactions were considered: abstractions of H and association reactions, which include additions, combinations, and (by microscopic reversibility) unimolecular decompositions. Abstraction rate constants and high-pressure-limit association rate constants may be estimated by simple analogies or by more complex analogies such as thermochemical kinetics. However, as noted above, proper consideration of pressure effects is necessary for association reactions. Even at 1 atm and for relatively large molecules, these effects can be significant at combustion temperatures (14).

Bimolecular Quantum-RRK (8-9) was used here to predict falloff for addition and combination reactions. The method also predicts rate constants for the chemically activated decomposition paths, which numbered as many as three in the present study. These rate constants are also influenced by pressure but have an inverse falloff behavior (pressure-independent at low pressures (9)). Input data needed for the method are high-pressure-limit, Arrhenius pre-exponential factors and activation energies for each association and dissociation step; geometric mean frequency and number of frequencies in each adduct; and collisional properties of adduct and bath molecules.

Arrhenius parameters A and Eact were estimated for one direction of reaction, and the parameters for the reverse reaction then were calculated using the equilibrium constant (microscopic reversibility). For example, rate constants

for radical combinations were estimated by an extension (10) of a method of Benson (15) and were assumed independent of temperature.

ESTIMATION OF THERMODYNAMICS AND OF RATE CONSTANTS

Species involved in the reactions to be analyzed include H, H₂, O, OH, H₂O, C₂H, C₂H₂, C₂H₃, C₂H₄, C₄H₂, C₄H₄ (vinylacetylene), 1,2,3-C₄H₄ (butatriene), 1,3-C₄H₆, and the C₄H₃ and C₄H₅ radicals. Few data are available for the thermodynamics and kinetics of C₄ species. The necessary data may be estimated with useful accuracy, but data uncertainties and their effects must be examined.

Thermodynamics. - These properties (Table 1) were estimated using group additivity. The groups of Benson (7) were supplemented by the recent groups for unsaturates and rings by Stein and Fahr (16). Additional groups for vinyl (ethenyl) and ethynyl radical sites were derived from the heats of formation (298 K) of 70.4 kcal/mol for C₂H₃ (17) and 135 kcal/mol for C₂H (inferred from (18)). These values appear reliable, but other values as low as 63 and 127 have been suggested.

Structural assignments must be made in order to apply group additivity to the C4H3 and C4H5 radicals. For 1-C4H3 or 1-C4H5, the radical site is on a terminal alkene carbon, and properties are inferred by analogy of 1-C4H3/C4H4 or 1-C4H5/1,3-C4H6 with C2H3/C2H4. Similarly, properties of the CH2CHCC radical can be estimated from C4H4 and C2H/C2H2, and for HCC-CH=CH-, from 1-butyne and C2H3/C2H4. Even for HCC-CH-CH3, the species is easily treated as an allylic radical of 1-butyne.

The remaining two radicals, HCC-C'=CH2 (2-C4H3) and CH2=CH-C'=CH2 (2-C4H5), are more difficult. No groups are available for vinylic radical sites like these that are created inside conjugated pi-bond systems. Instead, thermodynamics are estimated for equivalent resonance structures for 2-C4H3 and 2-C4H5, respectively 'CH=C=CCH2 and 'CH2-CH=C=CH2. The first, allenic radical is assumed to be formed with the 110 kcal/mol bond dissociation energy of C2H4, while the second radical is treated as a simple allylic site.

The properties are summarized in Table 1. In addition, necessary geometric-mean frequencies were estimated from frequency assignments and are included in Table 1. Rougher estimates could have been used, as the quantized energy distribution is not affected greatly.

Table 1. Estimated thermodynamic properties and geometric-mean frequencies (enthalpy in kcal/mol; entropy in cal/mol K).

	Mf,298	S298	$Cp (cal/mol K) at T (K) = < \omega >$
			300K 400 500 600 800 1000 1500 2000 cm-1
C ₂ H	135.0	49.6	8.9 9.7 10.2 10.7 11.5 12.2 13.3 14.1
C ₂ H ₃	70.4	54.5	10.9 12.4 13.8 15.1 17.2 18.8 21.3 23.2
C4H2 (HCC-CCH)	105.1	59.8	17.6 20.1 21.9 23.2 25.1 26.6 29.1 30.5
1-C4H3 (HCC-CH=CH.)	126.1	66.5	17.2 20.1 22.4 24.4 27.2 29.2 32.7 34.4 1000
2-C4H3 (HCC-C'=CH2)	138.7	68.3	17.5 20.2 22.5 24.4 27.4 29.6 33.2 34.7 1040
CH2=CH-CC	149.2	65.3	15.8 18.8 21.4 23.5 26.9 29.3 33.0 34.4
C4H4 (vinylacetylene)	68.2	65.1	17.5 21.2 24.2 26.6 30.3 33.1 37.6 39.7 1080
123-C4H4 (butatriene)	80.9	63.1	18.0 21.5 24.4 26.9 30.7 33.5 37.7 39.5
1-C4H5 (CH2=CH-CH=CH')	84.2	68.7	18.6 23.3 26.8 29.5 33.6 36.5 41.4 44.1 1140
2-C4H5 (CH2=CH-C'=CH2)	72.2	69.9	18.5 22.9 26.5 29.4 34.0 37.4 42.5 44.6 1160
HCC-CH ₂ -CH ₂ ·	85.6	70.7	19.4 23.3 26.5 29.3 33.5 36.7 42.6 46.2 1450
HCC-CH'-CH3	96.6	73.1	18.8 22.4 25.5 28.3 32.7 36.1 41.5 43.9 1530
1,3-C4H6 (butadiene)	26.3	66.6	19.0 24.3 28.5 31.8 36.9 40.5 46.3 49.9 1190
1-butyne	39.6	69.6	19.5 23.9 27.7 30.9 36.1 40.0 47.1 51.7
2-butyne	35.0	68.2	18.7 22.7 26.4 29.7 35.2 39.3 45.5 49.2

Radical additions, - Additions of C₂H and C₂H₃ to acetylene are the routes to 1-C₄H₃ and 1-C₄H₅ that have been assumed in previous analyses (2-6). One reason is that such addition leads only to an end radical on the C₄ adduct. Less recognized is that the adduct is initially rovibrationally excited (chemically activated) by the depth of the potential well where the ground-state adduct is located. Falloff can occur, and chemically activated decomposition of the hot adduct is possible to form H+C₄H₂ or H+C₄H₄. Thus, 1-C₄H₃ and H+C₄H₂ are not different types of C₂H+C₂H₂ reactions but different product channels from the same addition.

Calculation shows that the decomposition channels dominate over the simple additions for both these reactions over the range of 900 to 2000 K at 2.67 kPa CO. Even at 1 atm N2, H+C4H2 is faster than the 1-C4H3 channel by a factor of 3 or more. For C2H3+C2H2 at 1 atm N2, the addition/stabilization channel to 1-C4H5 is faster than addition/decomposition to H+C4H4 up to 1350 K, but the 1-C4H5 channel has fallen off to 1% of the high-pressure limit at 2000 K.

H-atom additions. - Addition of H to C4H2 or C4H4 also can form C4H3 and C4H5 radicals. In this case, the H can add (in principle) to any carbon, giving different isomers, and some chemically activated decompositions of the adducts may occur.

H-addition to the end carbons of C4H2 forms (2-C4H3)*, which can only be stabilized if 1,3-H shifts are disallowed. Addition to the internal carbons forms 1-C4H3 and C2H+C2H2 in the reverse of the radical addition sequence described above. Calculation shows that falloff makes the 2-C4H3 product of H+C4H2

negligible, as the rate constants (2.67 kPa, 1500 K) are $2.6 \cdot 10^{11}$, $1.1 \cdot 10^{11}$, and $1.6 \cdot 10^9$ cm³mol⁻¹s⁻¹ for 1-C4H₃, C₂H+C₂H₂, and 2-C4H₃. C₂H+C₂H₂ begins to dominate at 1600 K for 2.67 kPa, but 1-C4H₃ remains dominant even at 2000 K at 1 atm.

The product spectrum from H+C4H4 is more complex because addition to each different carbon gives a different adduct. Of the additions forming (1-C4H5)* and (2-C4H5)*, C2H3+C2H2 dominates at 1500 K and 2.67 kPa (2.2·10¹²), followed by 1-C4H5 (7·10¹¹), 2-C4H5 (2.5·10¹¹), and H+butatriene (6·10¹⁰). Addition/stabilization to 1-C4H5 is dominant at 1 atm to 1900 K. Here, as for radical addition, C4H5 formation is less inhibited by falloff than is C4H3 formation.

<u>Radical/radical and H/radical combinations.</u> - Combination reactions have not generally been considered as paths to C4 radicals. However, chemically activated decompositions to $H+C4H_X$ are possible from C_2H_3 combinations with C_2H , forming $(C_4H_4)^*$, and with itself, forming $(C_4H_6)^*$. Combinations of H with C_4H_X radicals are also of interest as sinks and as reactive-isomerization reactions for the radicals.

Formation of 1-C4H₃ +H is dominant at 2.67 kPa for both C₂H+C₂H₃ and for 2-C₄H₃ +H reactions. Thermalized C₄H₄ is the only other significant product from 2-C₄H₃ +H, while C₂H+C₂H₃ forms minor amounts of C₄H₄ and 2-C₄H₃ +H. From the reaction of 1-C₄H₃ +H, formation of C₄H₄ is strongly favored at both pressures.

In contrast, $C_2H_3+C_2H_3$ leads predominantly to thermalized 1,3-C4H6. The 2-C4H5 +H and 1-C4H5 +H channels are within an order of magnitude of the C4H6 channel at 1500 K and 2.67 kPa, but C4H6 formation is even more strongly favored at 1 atm. Both C4H5+H channels are similarly dominated by C4H6 formation.

Thermal decompositions. - Thermal elimination of H by beta-scission can be an important loss mechanism for radicals. Thermal decompositions of molecules require more thermal activation and are usually not important in flames. In both cases, the kinetics may be calculated from unimolecular reaction theory, using the parameters developed for cases above, or from microscopic reversibility, using the rate constants developed above. In summary, elimination of H proved to be the dominant channel for the radicals, while formation of H + 1-C4H3 or 1-C4H5 was most important for decomposition of the molecules.

Application to flame data. - Only a few reactions prove to be important in determining the totals of formation and destruction rates.. The above rate constants were combined with measured concentrations and temperature profiles to establish the dominant production and destruction channels of 1-

C4H3, 2-C4H3, 1-C4H5, and 2-C4H5. Rates were calculated as a function of position and also were integrated over distance.

1-C4H3, the apparent precursor of phenyl, is formed two orders of magnitude faster than 2-C4H3. This difference would give super-equilibrium concentrations of 1-C4H3 because equilibrium levels of 2-C4H3 should exceed 1-C4H3. Formation of 1-C4H3 is primarily by H atom reactions with C4H2 (addition) and with C4H4 (abstraction), while destruction is dominated by loss of H to form C4H2.

One puzzle is that the integrated amount of destruction should be less than or equal to the integrated rate of formation. However, the predicted destruction is greater by a factor of 20. One possible reason is error in the C4H3 calibration, as the destruction rate is proportional to C4H3 concentration, while formation is independent of it. An alternative is that some formation reaction is not considered. C2H2+C2H2 was examined using a literature rate constant (19) but it was three orders of magnitude too slow to make any difference.

1-C4H5 was formed only at 45% of the rate of 2-C4H5, in contrast to the C4H3 isomers. For both isomers, hydrogen abstraction by H was the principal source, with H+C4H4 (addition) and thermal decomposition of 1,3-C4H6 making up 1/10 to 1/3 of the total rate. Simple addition to form 1-C4H5 was important only very early in the flame. This mix is illustrated in Figure 1. Total destruction was higher then formation for C4H5's by a factor of ten. Again, either calibration error or a missing source reaction are suggested as reasons for this difference.

CONCLUSIONS

Formation of 1-C4H3 and 1-C4H5 radicals is dominated by H-abstraction and H-addition. In contrast, previous workers had assumed that addition of C2H and C2H3 to C2H2 were responsible. This conclusion is qualified by the excessive destruction that is predicted, but calibration error may be the cause. Detailed experimental data, combined with careful, comprehensive theoretical predictions of rate constants, account for this new understanding.

This study is continuing, further examining the rate constants and using them in predictive flame mechanisms.

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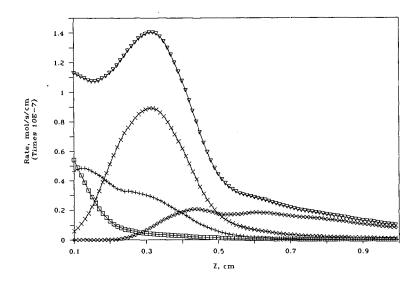


Figure 1. Predicted rates for reactions leading to 1-C4H5, using measured concentrations and predicted rate constants for C2H3+C2H2 (\square), H+C4H4 (+), 1,3-C4H6 decomposition (\diamondsuit), 1,3-C4H6 + H (X), and total (∇).